

COMMANDER WARREN E. CUPPS  
CHANGE OF COMMAND

### HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 7, 2014*

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Warren E. Cupps, Captain of the USS *Fort Worth*. The sixteenth of April two thousand fourteen marks a historic day for the United States Navy and the City of Fort Worth. Commander Warren E. Cupps will complete his successful tour as the Commanding Officer of USS *Fort Worth* LCS 3, Crew 103 Rough Riders.

Commander Cupps successfully commanded his ship and her Sailors through sixteen months of arduous sea duty. Taking Command on the seventh of December two thousand twelve, he commanded over 80 Sailors as crewmembers, mission package detachment crews and aviation detachment personnel. He has been instrumental in guiding the various mission packages including Surface Warfare Mission Package Detachment One, HSM-35 Detachment ONE and Mine Countermeasures Mission Package Detachment Three.

His leadership as the commanding officer is evident when the Commander of Naval Surface Forces in the U.S. Pacific Fleet awarded USS *Fort Worth* the 2013 Battle Effectiveness award. The Battle "E" is one of the highest awards presented to a ship. An annual award, it recognizes ships and crews who have demonstrated their combat readiness with superior performances in six categories in which they have maintained excellence and high standards.

Commander Cupps has led his crew through many milestones and achievements throughout the early life of USS *Fort Worth*. During his tenure, the ship completed Final Contract Trials, the Cybersecurity Inspection, the Technical Evaluation and Initial Operational Testing and Evaluation Period.

Final Contract Trials is a major ship inspection by the Board of Inspection and Survey, a congressionally mandated inspection. In the life of a newly constructed ship, it is the final inspection where the ship's material condition and operations are thoroughly tested. This is one of the last milestones in a ship's first year of life. Commander Cupps led his crew through the first-ever trial period for the newest class of ships, the Littoral Combat Ship.

In addition, USS *Fort Worth* is completing their Technical Evaluation and Initial Operational Testing and Evaluation Period. These events are crucial for the Littoral Combat Ship program in final testing of the seaframe, Surface Warfare Mission Package including 30mm cannons, 11m fast boats with maritime security teams and an MH-60R helicopter. In addition, during the crew's Cybersecurity Inspection, the crew set a new Fleet Record of excellence.

USS *Fort Worth* is one of the newest littoral combat ships to join our naval fleet. The Littoral Combat Ship, is a fast, agile and focused-mission platform designed for operation in near-shore environments and open-ocean operation, with war fighting capabilities to defeat asymmetric threats such as mines, submarines and fast surface craft. USS *Fort Worth* was christened in 2010 and commis-

sioned in 2012 celebrating the first time our great city has been named as a Naval vessel to honor our city. The citizens of Fort Worth have embraced the Sailors of USS *Fort Worth* with true Texas hospitality. Our city maintains a proud military heritage and is home to the Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base.

The charge of command is an immense responsibility. It is the very soul of our Navy since 1775. It represents the finest level of leadership. Commander Cupps upheld the highest degree of naval standards and Navy traditions when commanding his Sailors. Through relentless hard work and determination, Commander Cupps exemplified Fort Worth's "Grit and Tenacity". The planks of USS *Fort Worth* are engraved with his leadership in professionalism, honor and virtue.

Finally, I will say the lasting impression within the bulwarks of USS *Fort Worth* will be the true loyalty and trust in which he instilled in his Sailors. At all times, Commander Cupps put his ship and her crew above himself. Warren, as a dear friend, I will say Bravo Zulu on your Command at Sea. Thank you for taking care of our men and women in uniform and keeping our ship combat ready. You are a great American and a Naval Officer of high honor and virtue. Fair Winds and Following Seas!

#### TRIBUTE TO JOE BENESH

### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 7, 2014*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Joe Benesh of RDG Planning in Des Moines, Iowa for being named a 2014 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines area who are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious distinction, which is based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2014 class of Forty Under 40 honorees join an impressive roster of nearly 600 business leaders and growing.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Joe in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud Mr. Benesh for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Joe on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2014 Forty Under 40 class continued success.

HONORING PAUL NICHOLSON'S  
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

### HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 7, 2014*

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Paul Nicholson, Streator City Manager, and to recognize his many years of service to the citizens of the City of Streator, LaSalle County, and the State of Illinois.

Paul has served for more than 40 years in city management for the City of Streator and other municipalities. He has been a reliable steward of city resources in Streator and helped save the city time and funds due to his professionalism and expertise.

Paul will be retiring from the position of City Manager after a new manager is selected. I would like to thank him for all he has done for the residents of Streator and LaSalle County. He has been a leader and advocate for many important issues throughout his years of service, and has become a well-respected member of the community.

While he is leaving his post and heading into retirement, I know that Paul will always be there to lend a helping hand or offer advice to those in need. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I wish to express our deepest thanks to Paul Nicholson for his commendable years of service and dedication.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DR. EDWIN C. KRUPP

### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 7, 2014*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Edwin C. Krupp as he celebrates 40 years as Director of Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles. During these past four decades, Dr. Krupp has become an expert on ancient, prehistoric, and traditional astronomy, authored extensive publications on astronomical and science education to promote the field to the general public, and established Griffith Observatory as one of Los Angeles' iconic destinations.

Prior to directing the most-visited public observatory in the world, Dr. Krupp graduated with a B.A. in physics and astronomy from Pomona College in 1966; he followed with M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Krupp joined Griffith Observatory in 1970 as a part-time Planetarium Lecturer, was appointed full-time Curator in 1972 after receiving his Ph.D. in astronomy, and was named Observatory Director in 1974. Soon thereafter, Dr. Krupp co-founded Friends Of The Observatory (FOTO) in 1978 as the Observatory's indispensable non-profit partner. From concept to completion, Dr. Krupp led the \$93 million, award-winning renovation and expansion of the Observatory from 2002–2006, which restored and renewed the historic landmark, transformed its exhibits and programming capabilities, and more than doubled the size of its public space. Attendance has increased every year since reopening, and now exceeds 1 million visitors annually.